

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A network configuration comprising:

~~a plurality of unconfigured devices which are connected to the network, and which comprise one or more servers, hubs, routers, clients and/or switches; and~~

a plurality of one or more configured devices which are connected to the network, and each of which comprises a server[[s]], hub[[s]], router[[s]], client[[s]] and/or switch[[es]] connected to the network, wherein at least one or more of the configured devices is capable of send[[s]]ing over the network at least a portion of its configuration information including its IP address and its subnet mask; and[[,]]

~~wherein a portion of said configuration information sent by said one or more configured devices is used by any one of said unconfigured devices to create an unconfigured device which comprises a server, hub, router, client, or switch connected to the network, wherein the unconfigured device is capable of creating its own configuration information, including its own unique identification IP address, using the IP address and the subnet mask of a single one of the configured devices.~~

2. (Currently amended) The network configuration recited in claim 1 wherein said ~~first~~ unconfigured device modifies the configuration information of said ~~second configured~~ device received from said ~~second configuration~~ device to create said configuration information for itself.

3. (Currently amended) The network configuration recited in claim 1 wherein said ~~first~~ unconfigured device is capable of sending a request for configuration information over the network.

4. (Currently amended) The network configuration recited in claim 2 wherein said ~~second~~ configured device sends said configuration information in response to the request for configuration information from said ~~first-unconfigured~~ device.

5-7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently amended) The network recited in claim 1 wherein said configuration information created for said ~~first-unconfigured~~ device is created by said unconfigured first device modifying the portion of said configuration information of said ~~configured second~~ device.

9. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method of ~~transferring network information, including configuration information, between a plurality of first configuring an~~ unconfigured devices connected to a network using configuration information of one and a plurality of second-configured device[s] connected to the network, wherein the first and second devices comprise servers, hubs, routers, clients and/or switches, comprising the steps of:

~~sending over the network from the one of the second configured devices that is connected to and configured in the network to the unconfigured device at least a portion of its the~~ sending over the network from the one of the second configured devices that is connected to and configured in the network to the unconfigured device at least a portion of its the configuration information ~~of the configured device onto the network, the portion including an IP address and a subnet mask of the configured device, the IP address and the subnet mask of the configured device usable by the unconfigured device ; and~~ of the configured device onto the network, the portion including an IP address and a subnet mask of the configured device, the IP address and the subnet mask of the configured device usable by the unconfigured device ; and

~~one of the first devices receiving the at least a portion of its configuration information and using a portion of the configuration information other than IP address information sent from the second device to create its own configuration information including a unique IP address of the unconfigured device.~~ one of the first devices receiving the at least a portion of its configuration information and using a portion of the configuration information other than IP address information sent from the second device to create its own configuration information including a unique IP address of the unconfigured device.

10. (Currently amended) The method recited in claim 9 ~~30~~ further including the step of

sending from the ~~first~~ unconfigured device a request on the network for configuration information.

11. (Currently amended) The method recited in claim 10 wherein the ~~second~~ configured device responds to the request from the unconfigured ~~first~~ device for configuration information with at least a portion of its configuration information.

12. (Currently amended) The method recited in claim 9-30 further including ~~the step of~~ determining whether to accept the at least a portion of the configuration information from the configured ~~second~~ device.

13. (Currently amended) The method recited in claim 9-30 further including ~~the step of~~ determining whether configuration address information was received from a compatible device.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently amended) The method recited in claim 9 wherein after the unconfigured ~~first~~ device is configured, the configured ~~second~~ device can respond to the unconfigured ~~first~~ device with network information other than configuration information.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently amended) The method recited in claim 9 further including ~~the step of the~~ configured ~~second~~ device responding with ~~the~~ network information other than configuration information.

18. (Currently amended) The method recited in claim 15-17 wherein the other network

information is SYSLOG information.

19. (Currently amended) The method recited in claim 9-30 further including ~~the step of~~ communicating with the configured second device or other devices on the network that the unconfigured first device ~~that was previously unconfigured~~ is now configured and available for use.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently amended) The method recited in claim 9-30 further including ~~the step of~~ confirming that the IP address created for the ~~first~~ unconfigured device is not currently in use.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently amended) The method recited in claim 9-31 wherein the ~~IP device~~ address of the unconfigured first device is generated using a hash algorithm.

24-25. (Canceled)

26. (New) The network configuration of claim 1, wherein the IP address and the subnet mask are separate data items.

27. (New) The network configuration of claim 1, wherein the configured device is not a server, and wherein the unique identification address is not limited to one of a reserved range of addresses corresponding to a local portion of the network.

28. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein the sending comprises broadcasting the

portion of the configuration information over the network without receiving a request for the portion from the unconfigured device.

29. (New) The method of claim 9, comprising:

receiving from the unconfigured device a request for the portion of the configuration information, wherein the sending is responsive to the receiving.

30. (New) A computer-implemented method of configuring an unconfigured device connected to a network using configuration information of one configured device connected to the network, comprising:

receiving from the one configured device over the network at the unconfigured device at least a portion of the configuration information of the configured device, the portion including an IP address and a subnet mask of the configured device; and

using the IP address and the subnet mask of the configured device, the unconfigured device creating configuration information for the unconfigured device including a unique IP address of the unconfigured device.

31. (New) The method of claim 30, wherein the creating comprises:

combining the IP address of the configured device with the subnet mask of the configured device to form a device-independent address characteristic of the network;

generating a device address associated with the unconfigured device; and

combining the device-independent address with the device address to form the unique IP address of the unconfigured device.

32. (New) The method of claim 30, comprising:

the unconfigured device requesting the portion of the configuration information from the configured device.

33. (New) The method as recited in claim 10 wherein the request comprises a multicast packet that indicates that the sending device is unconfigured.